

## **Central Queens Pastoral Charge**

### **United Church of Canada**

**June 22, 2025**

10:30 a.m.

Second Sunday after Pentecost

### **Central Queens Mission Statement**

Central Queens United Church is a loving and living community called to support the life stages of all people; celebrating the joy and sharing in pain. Through faith and fellowship, we are united by God's love to live and serve as Disciples of Christ.

## **Gathering for Worship**

### **Prelude**

### **Welcome**

Welcome in the name of the Christ.

**Welcome to this place of worship, situated on the  
unceded traditional lands of the Mi'kmaq people.**

Welcome to this place of retreat and refuge, worship and wonder.

**It is good to be here.**

It is indeed good to be together.

### **Announcements**

### **Birthdays & Special Occasions**

## Lighting of the Christ Candle

There was a person who did such **amazing things** - said such **wonderful things** - that great crowds of people followed him everywhere. One day they ask him, "Who are you?" He said, "I am the light."

## Quiet Preparation for Worship

### Bible Presentation

**\*Introit** "Come All You People"

MV#2

### Call to Worship

Come, not as those who have all the answers,  
but as seekers of light,  
drawn by a whisper from beyond the known.

**We come, weary and wondering,  
with hearts both full and afraid.**

Come as you are—  
carrying names you've been given,  
and names you've yet to speak aloud.

**We come to name the truths we hide,  
and to be held by a love that never turns away.**

Here in this gathered hush,  
may we meet the One who sees through to the soul,  
and still says, "You are mine."

**Let us worship the God of liberation,  
who calls us by name and speaks us whole.**

**Prayer of Approach**

**Holy One,  
you come to us in the wild places of our lives,  
where words run dry and the maps no longer make sense.**

**You cross our inner borders without fear,  
meet us in our loneliness,  
and ask us gently,  
“What is your name?”**

**In this quiet hour,  
may we stop running.  
May we listen for the truth beneath our noise.  
May we unbind what has been hidden for too long.**

**Let your Spirit rest upon us now—  
soft as mist, steady as earth,  
calling us back to ourselves,  
and toward one another in compassion and hope.**

**With Jesus, we share in the ancient prayer...**

**Lord’s Prayer**

**Our Father, which art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy Kingdom come,  
thy will be done on earth,**

as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever.  
Amen.

**Responsive Reading** Psalm 42&43

VU #768

**\*Hymn** "Each Blade of Grass"

MV #37 vv.1, 2

**All God's Children**

**Hymn** "Each Blade of Grass"

MV #37 vv.1, 2

**Presentation of Our Gifts**

**Invitation to Generosity**

There is a generosity that grows from naming—  
naming our gratitude,  
naming our blessings,  
naming the call to share what we have.

We give, not to earn grace,  
but to become part of the healing—  
in our church,  
in our streets,  
in the quiet places no one sees.

So let your offering today be a naming:  
a naming of your hope,  
your trust,  
your commitment to a world where all can thrive.

**\*Presentation of Offering**

**\* Offertory**      “You Nourish Us”      VU #545

**\*Offertory Prayer**

**Giver of every good thing,  
you meet us with tenderness in our truth,  
and teach us to give, not from fear,  
but from fullness.**

**Bless these gifts we have gathered—  
silver, service, prayer, and promise.  
May they become seeds of healing,  
signs of courage,  
and pathways toward peace  
for all who are waiting to be seen,  
to be heard,  
to be held.**

**Amen.**

**Listening for the Word**

**Prayer for Understanding**

Holy Mystery,  
your word arrives not only in ancient ink,  
but in the stillness between our thoughts,

in the ache of our longings,  
in the courage it takes to listen.

As the Scriptures are read,  
and the silence is kept,  
may your Spirit rise up in us—  
not for certainty, but for wisdom,  
not for comfort alone, but for truth.

Give us ears to hear beyond the words,  
and hearts wide enough  
to be changed by what we find.

Amen.

## **Sacred Scripture**

### **Isaiah 65:1–9**

1 I was ready to be sought out by those who did not ask,  
to be found by those who did not seek me.  
I said, “Here I am, here I am,”  
to a nation that did not call on my name.

2 I held out my hands all day long  
to a rebellious people,  
who walk in a way that is not good,  
following their own devices;

3 a people who provoke me  
to my face continually,  
sacrificing in gardens  
and offering incense on bricks;

4 who sit inside tombs  
and spend the night in secret places;  
who eat swine's flesh,  
with broth of abominable things in their vessels;

5 who say, "Keep to yourself,  
do not come near me, for I am too holy for you."  
These are a smoke in my nostrils,  
a fire that burns all day long.

6 See, it is written before me:  
I will not keep silent, but I will repay;  
I will indeed repay into their laps

7 their iniquities and their ancestors' iniquities together,  
says the Lord;  
because they offered incense on the mountains  
and reviled me on the hills,  
I will measure into their laps  
full payment for their actions.

8 Thus says the Lord:  
As the wine is found in the cluster,  
and they say, "Do not destroy it,  
for there is a blessing in it,"  
so I will do for my servants' sake,  
and not destroy them all.

9 I will bring forth descendants from Jacob,  
and from Judah inheritors of my mountains;

my chosen shall inherit it,  
and my servants shall settle there.

**Luke 8:26–39**

26 Then they arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee.

27 As he stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs.

28 When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him, shouting, “What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me” —

29 for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.)

30 Jesus then asked him, “What is your name?” He said, “Legion,” for many demons had entered him.

31 They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss.

32 Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding, and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission.

33 Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

34 When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country.

35 Then people came out to see what had happened, and when



they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid.

36 Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed.

37 Then the whole throng of people of the surrounding region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned.

38 The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying,

39 “Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.” So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

## **Anthem**

**Sermon**    *Naming the Powers*

## **Reflective Music**

### **Responding to the Word**

## **Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession**

Loving Presence,  
we thank you for the grace that meets us  
in brokenness and beauty alike.  
For each breath, each kindness,  
each story told in courage.

**God of all mercy, name us whole.**

We pray for the forgotten places—  
in our world and in ourselves—  
where systems crush spirit  
and silence takes root.

**God of all mercy, name us whole.**

We remember the ones whose names are erased—  
the Indigenous, the immigrant,  
the queer and the trans,  
the poor, the sick, the shunned.

**God of all mercy, name us whole.**

We lift those in this community  
whose hearts are heavy with grief,  
whose minds carry anxiety,  
whose bodies are weary or unwell.

**God of all mercy, name us whole.**

And we pray for ourselves—  
that we might be tender with our blind spots,  
honest with our fears,  
and bold in our hope.

**God of all mercy, name us whole.**

Gather all our whispered prayers,  
those spoken and those unspoken,  
into your great heart.

**And let there be healing.**

**Amen.**

## **Changing the Light**

See the **light is now changed**. It has taken on a different form.  
**But it is still here!** It's absorbed in you. It clings to you.  
Go cradle and share the **Light**. **Share** it to others as we go about  
your daily living. **Go and live in the light**, Carriers of the light.

## **\*Benediction**

Go now,  
with your name spoken in love by the Holy One.  
Go, with your shadows named and held,  
your wounds neither hidden nor glorified.

Go, as people unafraid to speak the truth—  
even the hard truth—  
because you are rooted in grace.

May the Christ who crossed to the other side  
walk with you into every unfamiliar place.  
May the Spirit who breathes beyond borders  
stir courage in your soul.

And may your life—just as it is—  
become part of the healing of the world.

### **\*Blessing**

May the light of the gentle Christ be upon you,  
softening what is hardened,  
warming what is cold,  
awakening what is asleep.

May the God who walks barefoot among tombs  
walk beside you in your lonely hours,  
and speak your name with tenderness.

And until we meet again,  
may you be held in the hollow of God's hand,  
and cradled by the wild peace  
that surpasses all understanding. Amen.

**\*Choral Benediction** “Peace Be With You”

MV #215

Postlude

\*Please stand as you are able.